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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

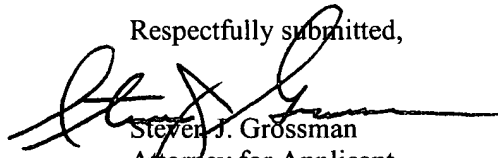
Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office Form PTOL-1449, including copies of the prior art references listed therein. Some of these references were cited in the priority application no. 09/225,117 (now Patent No. 5,950,568), and the corresponding priority U.S. applications nos. 09/266,389 and 09/334,529 (now Patent No. 6,131,534). The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(a). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitute prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(a) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 9, 2002 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By: Carol McCalland